

Low-Eyed Americans.

Of many perplexing characteristics of the American civilian not the strangest is his abhorrence of color in his dress. His raiment suggests dreary, leaded skies, wild-grown swamp land and smoke-choked lake harbors. Let one appear upon the street with a chameleon tie or a chambray-dyed waistcoat and the police consider it just to "run him in" for blocking traffic.

No man on earth is more fanciful, imaginative and inherently poetical than the American. Yet it is one of his stock jokes to point to the Englishman, who, though so matter-of-fact and commonplace of mind, drapes himself in broad, vivid checks. The Frenchman considers it no offense to wear long, chisel-shaped pink shoes and cravats like the pennant of a yacht club. The Russian and Lapland emigrants offset a bearing of hapless melancholy and confusion with brave red boots and prismatic mufflers. Even the Scot, dwelling in a land of fog and rain, rounds off a sweep of scarlet beard with a bonnet running the gamut of the spectrum.

That the American has really in his heart an ambition for color is apparent in the uniform he assumes upon occasions of secret society meetings, the encampments of militia, and in his good nature over the bills of his women folks. When proper excuse is given him he can riot in chromatics that would dull the following of the lord of an Indian principality.

Why Marston made a Contribution.

Russell H. Marston, proprietor of restaurants, lives in Centerville, Cape Cod, and when the church committee were soliciting funds for a clock for the Congregational Church they hesitated about asking him to give, on the ground that he was not a professor of religion nor even an attendant on divine worship.

They finally overcame their scruples, and in reply to their requests he gave them a very liberal amount, saying, "I want you to have the true time outside, if you don't inside."

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BOOKS IN BRITISH MUSEUM.

Students Crowd Its Reading Room and Investigate Various Subjects.

In the reading room of the British museum the desks are crowded with students all day long, and in addition to the books of reference some 20,000 in number, which fill the open shelves of the room, from 3,000 to 4,000 volumes are given out every day. The books are in a wide sense, including the Bible, biblical literature, church history and works on the religious rites and ceremonies of all races and creeds, is easily at the head of the list, with about 300 volumes. Topography comes next, with about twenty fewer, and of these books on London amount to a quarter, books on English topography to another quarter, the other half being for the rest of the world. History and biography come next, English history being mostly in demand, and books on France and the French province second.

Essays, criticisms and miscellaneous literature take the fourth place and are followed by fiction—not less than five years old—moral philosophy, poetry and the fine arts, the drama, law and philology, political economy and so on down to politics, mathematics and chemistry, which have about forty volumes apiece, and lastly works on naval and military subjects, which seldom have more than three or four volumes each. It is a curious list and throws a useful light on the sort of studies taken up by the readers in the museum.—London Globe

RUSSIANS FOND OF READING.

Copies of Popular Books Sell into the Millions.

People here are so accustomed to regard Russia as an illiterate land, says the London Telegraph, that they will probably be surprised to learn that a popular book at a low price has been known to reach a sale of 2,000,000 copies within a few months of its appearance. Such is the avidity with which the Slav reader seizes upon what appeals to him. In no other country, moreover, have writers been called upon to suffer for their literary opinions as in Russia. The story of many of them is a veritable martyrdom. Novikoff, the first modern writer, whom the Metropolitan of Moscow termed "the best Christian he ever knew," was immured for fifteen years in the Schlusselberg, and came out a broken man. Labzin was imprisoned and exiled. Radischeff in exile ended his own life by suicide. Tylicof was hanged with five other lesser writers by Nicholas I. Pushkin would have died in exile but for being killed in a duel, and Lermontoff was also killed when in exile, at the age of 27. Odoevskiy was broken by twelve years' hard labor in a Siberian convict prison. Polezhaeff was condemned to 1,000 strokes with the bastinado and twenty-five years' service in a penal regiment and a similar fate was reserved for Shevchenko. The list could be extended to cover a page or two.

Fine Private Art Collection.

In Springfield, Mass., is a private art collection the largest and most varied owned by any one individual in the country. It is the property of G. W. V. Smith, who has spent over fifty years in getting it together, and it is ranked with the New York Metropolitan museum and the Wallace museum of London.

Survivors of Massacre.

Mrs. Abbie Gardener Sharp, the sole survivor of the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857, is living at Pillsbury Point, Lake Okoboji, Ia. With the proceeds of the history of that event she purchased her home on the lake.

Trouble Brings Wrinkles.

Recent pictures of the czar and the czarina indicate that both have aged within the last year. This, however, is more true of the czarina than of the czar.

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